

AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A fastening system for fastening an object on a patient table, the fastening system comprising:

a fastening device having a horizontally extending recess provided on at least one longitudinal side of the patient table; and

a bracket adaptively shaped to engage with the recess,

wherein the bracket is insertable into the recess in a substantially traversal direction to the longitudinal extent of the recess with minimal frictional resistance to automatically establish a force-fitting engagement.

2. (Currently Amended) A fastening system for fastening an object on a patient table, the fastening system comprising:

a horizontally extending recess provided on at least one longitudinal side of the patient table; and

a bracket adaptively shaped to engage with the recess,

wherein the bracket is inserted into the recess in a substantially traversal direction to the longitudinal extent of the recess with minimal frictional resistance to automatically establish a form-fitting engagement.

3. (Original) The fastening system as in claim 1, wherein an upper inside wall of the recess extends upwardly toward a back wall of the recess, and a portion of the bracket is adapted to substantially engage with the upper inside wall of the recess toward the back wall of the recess.

4. (Original) The fastening system as in claimed 3 wherein an upward widening of the recess is formed toward the back wall of the recess.

5. (Original) The fastening system as in claimed 3 wherein the upper inside wall of

the recess has a groove which extends in a parallel direction to the longitudinal of extent of the recess, and the bracket has a lug adapted to engage with the groove with minimal frictional resistance.

6. (Currently Amended) The fastening system as in claimed 3 wherein [a] the bracket is suitably shaped to accommodate an insertion of the bracket in the recess with minimal frictional resistance in a substantially traverse direction to the longitudinal direction of the recess to establish a force-fitting engagement between the recess and the bracket.

7. (Currently Amended) The fastening system as in claimed 3 wherein [a] the bracket is suitably shaped to accommodate an insertion of the bracket in the recess with minimal frictional resistance in a substantially traverse direction to the longitudinal direction of the recess to establish a form-fitting engagement between the recess and the bracket.

8. (Original) The fastening system as in claim 6, wherein a locking mechanism biases the bracket away from the recess via a spring to strengthen the force-fitting engagement of the bracket with the recess.

9. (Original) The fastening system as in claim 7, wherein a locking mechanism biases the bracket away from the recess via a spring to strengthen the form-fitting engagement of the bracket with the recess.

10. (Currently Amended) The fastening system as in claim 6~~9~~, wherein the locking mechanism utilizes the engagement of the lug in the groove to stabilize the engagement of the bracket with the recess, and to minimizes inadvertent disengaging movements of the bracket out of the form-fitting engagement of the bracket with the recess.

11. (Currently Amended) The fastening system as in claim 7~~8~~, wherein the locking mechanism utilizes the engagement of the lug in the groove to stabilize the engagement of the

bracket with the recess, and to minimizes inadvertent disengaging movements of the bracket out of the force-fitting engagement of the bracket with the recess.

12. (Currently Amended) In an improvement of a bracket for fastening an object on a patient table with a suitably designed recess, the improvement comprising ~~the a~~ a shape of the bracket being adapted to a shape of the recess in such a way that the bracket ~~can be is~~ inserted insertable without resistance into the recess in a direction of insertion independent of the direction of extent of the recess and ~~can be is~~ lodged lodgeable in the recess with automatic establishment of a force-fit and/or form-fit ~~connection~~ engagement.

13. (Currently Amended) The improvement of Claim 12, wherein a locking mechanism biases the bracket away from the recess ~~has a lock which can be acted upon with via~~ a spring force.

14. (Currently Amended) The improvement of Claim 13 wherein the locking mechanism ~~bracket has a lock which is~~ operable to block a movement of the bracket out of the form-fit ~~connection~~ engagement with the recess.

15. (New) The fastening system as in claim 1, wherein the insertion of the bracket into the recess occurs without encountering a mechanical resistance.